

Gulfco Marine Maintenance SUPERFUND SITE

Freeport, Brazoria County, Texas

EPA Region 6

EPA ID: TXD055144539

Site ID: 0602027

U.S. Congressional District 14

Contact: Gary Miller 214-665-8318

Updated: June 2013



Background

The Site is located in Freeport, Texas at 906 Marlin Avenue (also referred to as County Road 756). The Site consists of approximately 40 acres along the north bank of the Intracoastal Waterway between Oyster Creek (approximately one mile to the east) and the Texas Highway 332 bridge (approximately one mile to the west).

Marlin Avenue divides the Site into two primary areas. The property to the north of Marlin Avenue (the North Area) consists of undeveloped land and the closed surface impoundments, while the property south of Marlin Avenue (the South Area) contains a dry dock, sand blasting areas, and two barge slips connected to the Intracoastal Waterway. Adjacent property to the north, west, and east of the North Area is unused and undeveloped.



Adjacent property to the east of the South Area is currently used for industrial purposes. The property to the west of the South Area is currently vacant and previously served as a commercial marina. Residential areas are located south of Marlin Avenue, approximately 300 feet west of the Site, and 1,000 feet east of the Site.

The site operated as barge cleaning and repair facility from 1971 to about 1998. Barges brought to the facility were cleaned of waste oils, caustics, and organic chemicals. Three surface impoundments in the North Area were used for storage of waste oils, caustics, various organic chemicals, and waste wash waters generated during barge cleaning activities until 1981. The impoundments were closed in 1982. Shallow

groundwater (salt water) below the former impoundments has been found to contain various organic chemicals including 1,1,1-trichloroethene, tetrachloroethene, and trichloroethene.

In October 2010 the EPA and the Gulfco Respondents signed a Consent Order, which required the Respondents to remove the storage tanks located in the southern part of the site. The removal work began in November 2010 and was completed by February 2011 with the exception of six roll-off containers which remain on-site waiting on disposal facility capacity. These roll-off containers were removed in March 2011.

Current Status

The EPA issued a Unilateral Administrative Order, effective July 29, 2005, to the Gulfco Respondents to perform a remedial investigation to define the nature and extent of contamination at the site, and to prepare a Feasibility Study to identify and screen remedial action alternatives. The Human Health and Ecological Risk Assessments have been completed. The Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study Reports have also been completed. A Proposed Plan outlining the site history, investigation results, and the Preferred Alternative for site remediation was prepared, and a public comment period on the Proposed Plan ended on August 22, 2011. A public meeting was also conducted on August 4, 2011 to present the Proposed Plan and preferred alternative. The Record of Decision, which was issued on September 29, 2011, selected a final remedy including among other things institutional controls, groundwater monitoring, and an operation and maintenance program for inspection and repair of the cap over the former impoundments. The site also achieved the construction completion milestone on September 9, 2011, because the removal work was completed previously and the selected remedy did not require any construction of new facilities. Implementation of the remaining work for the site (maintenance, ground water monitoring, etc.) will be performed according to a Consent Decree, which is being prepared now. Additional signs were installed in May 2013 to further identify the site.

Benefits

Remediation of the contaminated area will reduce human health and ecological risks associated with the contaminants at the site. Further, revitalization of the area will encourage reuse or redevelopment plans.

National Priorities Listing (NPL) History

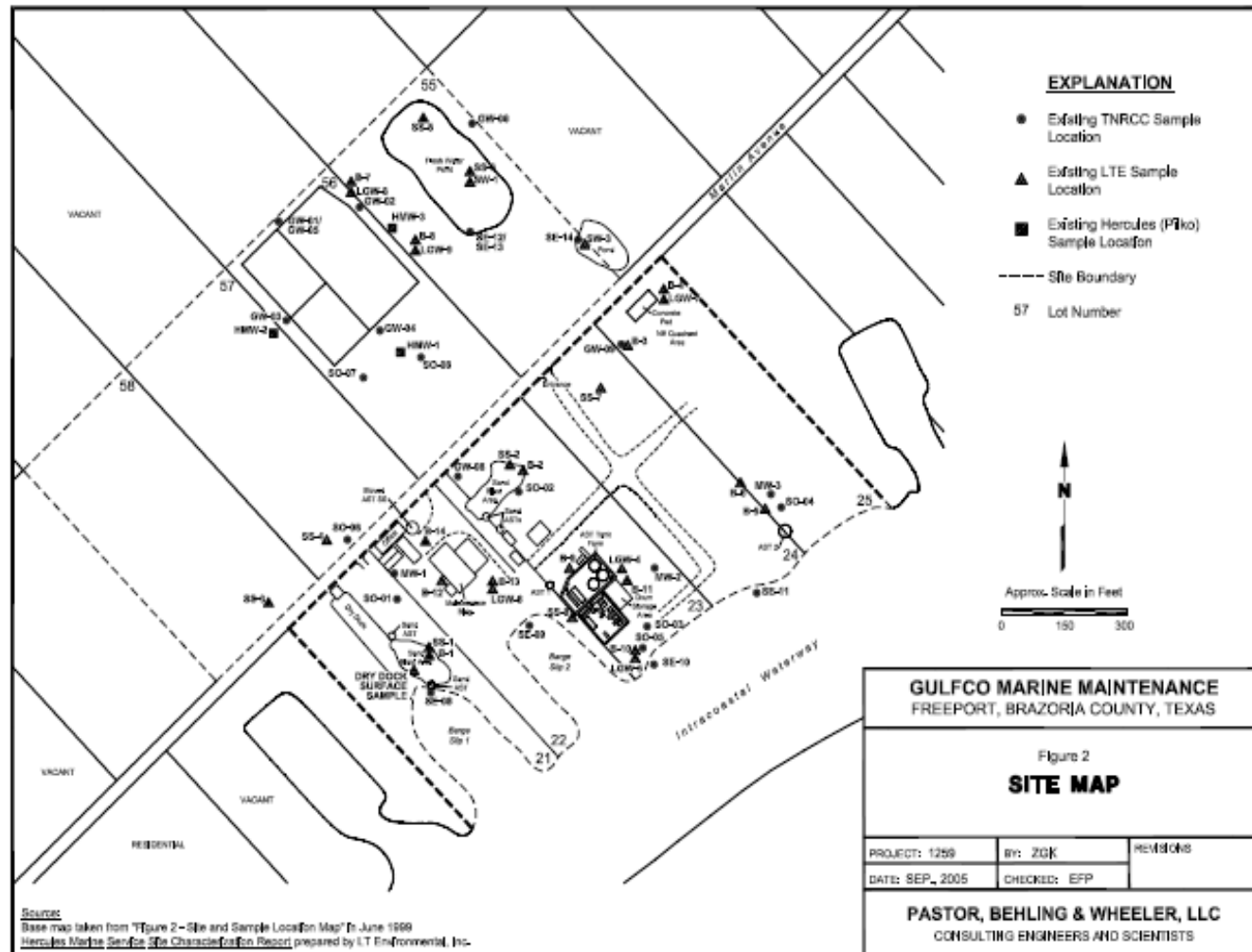
Proposal Date: September 2, 2002
Final Listing Date: May 30, 2003

Population: A residential area is located near the site to the southwest. Approximately 78 people live within the one square mile area surrounding the Site, and 3,392 people live within 50 square miles of the Site. The population of the City of Freeport is 12,800.

Setting: The Gulfco site lies along the north bank of the Intracoastal Waterway between Oyster Creek to the east and the Old Brazos River Channel and the Dow Barge Canal to the west. It is approximately 40 acres in size. The site property north of Marlin Avenue consists of undeveloped land and closed surface waste impoundments. The property south of Marlin Avenue was developed for industrial uses with two barge slips connected to the Intracoastal Waterway. A fence has been installed around the property south of Marlin Avenue to restrict land access. A wetland area is located north of the site.

Hydrology: The two primary hydrogeological units beneath the site are the Chicot and Evangeline Aquifers. The shallower Chicot Aquifer is subdivided into two zones: the Lower and Upper Chicot. The Upper Chicot is made up of interconnected sands that are found within 300 feet below ground surface. Ground water flow in the aquifer is reported to be to the southwest. A shallow, briney ground water zone also exists within a few feet of the surface.

Site Map



Wastes and Volumes

A barge cleaning, sand blasting, and repair facility operated at the site from 1971 to 1998. As part of this operation, residual product recovered from the barges was stored in tanks and sold. Wash waters from barge cleaning were stored in three surface waste impoundments in the north area until closed in 1982. Following closure of the impoundments, the wastewater was stored in a floating barge or storage tanks at the site. Site contaminants include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, pesticides, chlorinated hydrocarbons, and metals.

Former surface storage tanks in the concrete berm area contained volatile organic compounds including benzene, chloroform, dichloroethane, and trichloroethylene. These tanks have been demolished and removed from the Site.

Health Considerations

Implementation of the tank removal action and placement of institutional controls has addressed the risks at the Site. Long term protectiveness will be achieved with complete implementation of the remedy selected in the Record of Decision.

Record of Decision

The Record of Decision, which was issued on September 29, 2011, selected a final remedy including among other things institutional controls, groundwater monitoring, and an operation and maintenance program for inspection and repair of the cap over the former impoundments.

Community Involvement

Involvement Plan: November 2004
Open Houses: October 2005; August 22, 2003

Proposed Plan: July 18, 2011
Public Meeting: August 4, 2011
Technical Assistance Grant: September 26, 2002 and May 15, 2003
No Final Applications received

Information Repository: Freeport Branch Library
410 Brazosport Boulevard
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(979) 233-3622

Site Contacts

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